

Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NIC-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 SAJ-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 /090 W

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R 051530Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1936

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, EG, UR, XF

SUBJECT: SADAT/GROMYKO PRESS CONFERENCE

SUMMARY: IN PRESS CONFERENCE FEB 4 FOLLOWING FOUR HOUR TALK WITH GROMYKO, SADAT SAID NEW CHAPTER HAS BEEN OPENED IN GOE-USSR RELATIONSHIP. BOTH SADAT AND GROMYKO EMPHASIZED CORDIALITY OF DISCUSSIONS

AND SAID BREZHNEV WILL VISIT EGYPT "SOON". GOE ECONOMIC DEL WILL VISIT MOSCOW FEB 17. SADAT CLAIMED ARMS MAKE ISRAEL ARROGANT, NOT AMENABLE TO PEACE, AND SAID AGAIN THAT NEXT THREE MONTHS ARE DECISIVE. NEITHER SADAT NOR GROMYKO HAD ANYTHING SIGNIFICANT TO SAY ABOUT GENEVA. SADAT ANNOUNCED SECRETARY WILL ARRIVE FEB 12. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER FOUR-HOUR MEETING FEB 4 SADAT AND GROMYKO SPOKE TO PRESS CORPS. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS AS REPORTED CAIRO
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PAPERS:

A) BILATERAL RELATIONS. SMILING BROADLY, SADAT SAID EGYPT HAS TURNED OVER "NEW PAGE" IN RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION AND NEW RELATIONS ARE BASED ON "REALISM". GROMYKO CALLED TALKS "EXTREMELY USEFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE", ENCOMPASSING ALL FIELDS OF BILATERAL COOPERATION. SADAT ANNOUNCED BREZHNEV WILL VISIT CAIRO AT A DATE TO BE FIXED AND GROMYKO SAID VISIT WILL BE "FIXED" SHORTLY. ASKED ABOUT BREZHNEV VISIT TO US, GROMYKO SAID HE WAS UNABLE TO SAY WHETHER BREZHNEV VISIT TO CAIRO WOULD OCCUR BEFORE OR AFTER HE GOES TO WASHINGTON, AND THAT DATE OF US TRIP IS NOT YET FIXED. GROMYKO ADDED THAT WHEN BREZHNEV VISITS ME, HE WILL GO TO CAIRO, DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD. SADAT ANNOUNCED ECONOMIC DELEGATION WILL VISIT MOSCOW FEB 17 TO DISCUSS BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS (GUMHURIYYA CLAIMS DELEGATION WILL CONSIST OF GOE MINISTERS OF PLANNING, INDUSTRY, AND FOREIGN TRADE).

B) SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ME TOUR. SADAT ANNOUNCED SECRETARY WILL ARRIVE IN CAIRO FEB 12 "AND WE WELCOME HIS VISIT". EGYPTI WISHES BEST OF RELATIONS WITH TWO SUPERPOWERS.

C) ISRAEL. REPLYING TO QUESTIONS FROM AMERICAN CORRESPONDENTS, SADAT SAID HE DID NOT AGREE WITH THEORY THAT MILITARY SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL WILL ENCOURAGE ISRAELI CONTRIBUTION TO PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, AND SAID EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THE MORE ARMS ISRAELIS RECEIVE, THE GREATER THEIR ARROGANCE. ISRAEL MUST UNDERSTAND PROBLEM CANNOT BESOLVED BY FORCE AND SHOULD WITHDRAW FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, THEREBY DEFUSING PRESENT EXPLOSIVE SITUATION SO THAT WE MAY ALL GO TO GENEVA.

D) NEXT STAGE. SADAT REITERATED LITANY THAT COMING THREE MONTHS ARE "DECISIVE". FIRST STEP SHOULD BE TO DEFUSE SITUATION AND THIS IS WHY HE HAS CALLED FOR THREE FRONT WITHDRAWAL. (COMMENT: HE NEITHER SAID NOR IMPLIED THESE MUST BE SIMULTANEOUS.) ASKED BY AMERICAN JOURNALIST ABOUT PARTIAL STEPS TOWARD SETTLEMENT, SADAT SAID "I DO NOT APPROVE OF THE WORD 'PARTIAL' SINCE IT LENDS ITSELF TO INTERPRETATION THAT EGYPT IS PREPARING FOR PARTIAL AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL". IN DIFFERENCE CONTEXT SADAT REITERATED EGYPT WILL NOT UNILATERALLY END STATE OF WAR. (COMMENT: SADAT REMAINS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO ARAB AND DOMESTIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CRITICISM THAT HE IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT CONDITIONS FOR SECOND STAGE SINAI DISENGAGEMENT WHICH WOULD LEAD TO SEPARATE PEACE WITH ISRAEL.) IN REPLY TO FURTHER QUESTION, SADAT SAID ME SOLUTION IS IMPOSSIBLE "WITHOUT INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES FOR BOTH SIDES". EGYPT WELCOMES THESE "GUARANTEES" IN ANY FORM--FROM UNSC, TWO SUPERPOWERS, OR BIG FIVE"--(COMMENT: A CRUMB FOR THE FRENCH).

E) GENEVA. SADAT RECALLED HE WAS FIRST TO CALL FOR A GENEVA
PEACE CONFERENCE AND, AS ALWAYS WHEN HE IS ASKED ABOUT GENEVA,
HE REMARKED IT SHOULD BE VENUE FOR AGREEMENT ON ALL
MATTERS (I.E., IT SHOULD BE VENUE FOR JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE
PEACE SETTLEMENT).

2. WE HAVE JUST HEARD THAT FAHMY, SPEAKING AT AIRPORT DURING
GROMYKO'S DEPARTURE CEREMONY, SAID BREZHNEV WILL ARRIVE
"VERY SOON" IN CAIRO.
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